

AS YOU WERE.
OR THE NEW
FRENCH EXERCISE
OF THE
INFANTERIE,

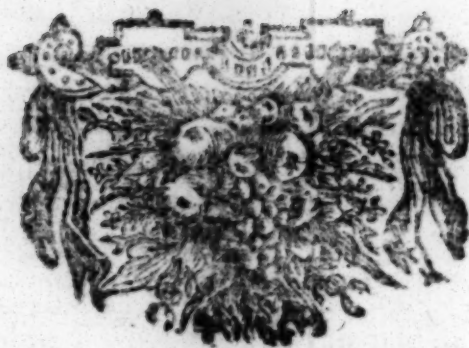
Ballanced with the Old.



Printed in the Year 1674.

AS YOU WERE
OR THE NEW
FRENCH EXERCISE
OF THE
INFANTERIE.

Balanced with the Old.



Printed in the Year 1824.



Ublikewarte (one of the effects and salaries of time) began to show its ouglie face among the founnes of man not long after the generall Deluge. The art used in it then was certainly rude, but time and Industrie haveing a litle polished it, Militarie Exercise was, no doubt, one of its products, if it was not cotaneous with it. We may observe after so many ages looke for some additions to drilling and training, but not for any new sisteme of Exercising. To invent new arts is difficult, to adde to them, is feasible, but to perfect them not so easie a worke. Many things are convenient that are not necessarie, but nothing is necessarie, which is not convenient, thogh not at all times, and in all places. So it is that many motions that were usuall with the Gracians and the Romanes in their exercises of warre have beene thought fit to be retained in ours, which for my owne part I never thought to be necessarie in the moderne art of warre, and on the other hand, some motions frequentlie used and practised by them, wold have beene perhaps both fitting and needfull for us to have Imitated, and yet we have totallie neglected them.

There is sometimes an absolute necessitie to adde to former inventions, and thus it was partly necessarie for Tutors and Masters of the art of warre, to adde to former exercises, words of command, for the Dexterous and comelie handling and manning Hand-guns, and Harquebuses, Carabines, Pistols, and Muskets, all of which acknowledge Gunpowder to be their Mother, which foure hundredth yeares agoe was not heard to make any noyse in the world. There be likewise many things brought in fashion by curious wits, that serve more for show then for vse, and very convenient, I thinke, it shold be so provided, a necessitie of practise be not imposed upon them. For I am none of those, who thinke that none of the old customs of warre shold be altered, nor am I one of these severe men, who hate all Novelties, nay I looke on all these old soldiers as little better then old fooles, who will not heare of any new introductions in the art and discipline of warre, for no other reason, but because they never saw them before, for by this argument, if they had lived three ages agoe, they had rejected the whole art of Gunnerie, concerning all kinds of great Ordinance and artificiall Fireworks, which succeeded the Machines and Engines of warre used in the days of old. Notwithstanding of all I have said, I am obliged to tell you, that more then two yeares agoe I read this French Exercise in its originall, and had the

very same sentiments of it, that I still have, these for some particular reasons I publish now, which I did not at first intend to do then. I spoke upon it a very ingenious peece, and the birth of a fertile braine; yet, whether all the severall parts of it be necessary, may, & whether they be all convenient, whether they be all for use, or for show, or for both, or whether some of them be for neither use nor show, may by these, who are not so great lovers of Innovations, as to fall out with old customes, be both questioned and examined, without making either schisme in the Church, or sedition in the State. Each section of this French Exercise, that I looke on as singular I shall set downe apart in the Translators words, and immediately subjoyne an Animadversion to it. Nor shall I be troubled, that my Reader reject all my Observations as impertinent, because I know, he has as much liberty to adhere to the French Author in all things, as I have taken to my selfe to dissent from him in some things.

FRENCH AUTHOR

The Major takes the Muskets, and formes the front of the Battailon.

The Adjutant ought to be at the head of the Pikes, which he draws up in the same manner in the reare of the Muskets, at twenty paces distance, if he have ground sufficient.

Animadversion

IF the Major forme onlie the front of the Battailon, who formes the Reare, the wings, and the middle of the Battailon? And since this Author exems the Major from the care of the Pikes, I conceive he may with very much ease forme the whole Bodie of the Musketeers, and perhaps the Author intended it so; but then, I say, he hath worded it ill, in calling it the front of the Battailon, for a Battailon is a Bodie consisting of severall parts. If any say by the front of the Battailon he means, The Musketeers, and by the Reare the Pikemen, I can not be satisfied with that answer, because the Musketeers of a Regiment drawne up in a Bodie by themselves, make a Battailon apart, and so doe the Pikemen another Battailon, each whereof hath a front and a reare, till they be joynd in one Bodie, and then they make indeed, but one Battailon.

In the next place, I say, An Ayde Major, or Regiment Adjutant is not to be found everie where, though the French have him, neither is his Office or his helpe either so requisite or so necessary in the marshalling a Battailon, as this section of the exercise seems to import. I am so charitable as to beleave that, there is none of the Field Officers of a Regiment, Colonell, Lieutenant Colonell, or Major, but may forme and draw up a Regiment or Battailon without helpe, if they doe but indifferently understand their charges, and if any of them.

themselves be asked the question, I presume, nothing but modestie will move them to contradict me.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

No Companies shall enter into the Field, but in its order, and six deepe in file.

Animadversion.

Sir, you say well, sixe deepe in file, in regard it hath bene appointed to be so of a long time by two of the most Christian Kings, for though the French be liberrall enough to lend fashions to other nations, yet they have bene content to borrow this from a colder Climate then their owne. But since ten deepe was the custome of old, and sixe deepe is now the custome, how come you to introduce an exercise, that can neither be performed by the one nor the other? Doe not you heereby reflect on all these famous Generalls both of your owne & other nations, who by making their Infanterie either ten or sixe deepe, bard entrance to this Quarter file exercise of yours, which you now bring with so much pompe vpon the stage? For my part I think, if ever any fancy of it entered their heads, they have looked on the Theoric therof as losse of time, and the practise of it as pure sopperie. Nay, who knows, but some of them have thought that to draw up a *Battailon* sixteene deepe, and exercise it by halfe Quarter files, might be a suteable object of an Idle mans speculation. But assuredlie, never one of them conceavd it to be either necessarie or convenient for this toy of yours, to make so great an alteration, as to change the depth of their *Battailons*, which in all armies belonging to one Prince, or one State, should be constantlie one and the same. And, Sir, to cry up the singularity of your device, I shall tell you, that the *Antient* *Grecians* drew up their foot *Battailons* sometimes eight, sometimes sixteene in file, yet had not so nimble wits to exercise by quarter files. To come to our owne times, The great Earle of *Strafford* orderd his Majesties Infanterie in *Ireland* to be eight deep in file, which certainlie so judicious a person, as he was knowne to be, did for good reasons, if one wherof had bene to exercise by quarter files, he had lost perhaps much of that reputation of militarie skill, which same hath so bountifullie bestowed vpon him.

Sir, in this place, you appoint the Companies to be sixe deep before they come to the Field, and in another place you order the files to be made eight deepe, when they are in the Field. But since you must exercise sometimes at sixe deepe, and since you will exercise sometimes at eight deepe; I shall make no bones to tell you, that it will be much more convenient to exercise your foot, one day at sixe deepe, and another day, at eight deepe, then to put your

Captaines to a double labour in one day; first to make their Companies sixe deep, before they come to the Field, and then eight deepe before they goe out of the Field. For to change the depth of files in the Field purpossie for quarter file exercise, is not so easie a worke; as perhaps you at first imagine it to be, my reason is this. In a file of sixe deepe you have but three leading men; these be, The Leader of the file, The Leader of the halfe file, and the Bringer up of the file. In a file of eight deepe when you are to exercise by quarter files, you have foure Leaders, and foure Bringers up, for divide a file of eight men in quarters, there will be in each quarter a Leader, and a Bringer up, these must be leasurlic chosen as fit persons to obey the words of command of that harsh exercise, which needs not be so punctuallie done in exercises at sixe deepe. Now the stations of these files at eight deepe cannot constantlie be keepd by the same men, because of sicknes, forlofs, and many other accidents which may withdraw them for a time, and their stations being changd, or other men put in their roomes, you shall not misse to meet with an embarras, the danger wherof you need not feare in exercising at sixe deepe in file, it being neither so knottie nor difficill as the other.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

The Captaines or Officers must leade their Companies with a Pike in their hand. The Lieutenants must be at the reare of the Pikes, when there are Ensigneys, and when there are none, they are to place themselvs at the head of the Pikes, when they are drawne into Battailia.

Animadversion.

THE Author tells vs not, whether the Officers shall cary their Pikes shoulderd, as the Spaniards doe, or comported as the French used to doe. Nor shall I tell my opinion, whether Pikes, halfe Pikes, Pertisanes, or Canes be most proper for Commissionated Officers. Onlie I shall desire the Lientenants to take notice, that this Master, fixes them all with the Pikes, whether in the front or reate of them, makes no matter.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

The Companies being come to the designed ground, shall file of one after another, and passe upon the left wing of the Pikes, and in the first place, shall leave their Pikes in the Field of the batle, and the Muskets shall pursue their march, till they have joyned the front of their Muskets.

Animadversion.

ONE of the hardest lessans ever I red. As it is worded, I shall never reach the meaning of it. Companies; which the Author himself acknowledgeth

to consist of both Muskets and Pikes, shall passe on the left wing of the Pikes. *Duy a Distie*, who can understand it? Companies, which consist of Pikes and Muskets, shall in the first place leave their Pikes in the Field of battle. First, a Companie is no more a Companie, but a part of a Companie, when the Pikes are left behind. Next, how can the Pikes be left in the Field of battle, since that must of necessitie be the Field of battle, where both Muskets and Pikes of the whole Regiment are formed in one Battailon. But take heed, Muskets shall pursue their march, till they have joynd the front of their Muskets. Where are we now? O, for an Interpreter, I am affrayd. The Printer hath wrongd both the Author and the Translator. Must Muskets or Musketeers pursue their march till they joyne the front of their Muskets? O Sence, where art Thou? In what corner of this Paragraph hath thou hid thy selfe? I am sure, I cannot find the. But lest we offer to wrong the Author, let vs heare him speake in his owne language, Both in his generall and particullar Exercise of the Infanterie, he hath these formall words. *Les Compagnies arrivants dans le Champ de Bataille, desileront consecutivement, & vont passer sur l'angle gauche des Piques, & auparavant laisseront leurs Piques dans le Champ de bataille, & les Mousquets survront le front des Mousquets.* It is not in my power to English this otherwise, as the Translator hath done. Yet I wold gladlie be so just to the Author, as to thinke, his meaning were this: When the Companies arrives at the place of Battoll, they shall leave their Pikes behind at that distance spoke of, (to wit, twentie paces) and the Musketeers shall march, these of one Companie after another, on the left hand of the Pikes still forward, till they come to the place appointed by the Major for the front of the Muskets. And when all this is done, we may aske, why may not the Musketeers of each Companie leave their Pikes and march straight in a direct line to the place appointed for them, and not be obliged to march in an oblique line vpon the left wing of the Pikes, but more of this heere after.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

As soon as the last Companie hath joynd the Battailon, the Adjutant shall file off the Pikes by private ranks, to goe joyne the Battailon, on the same front of Muskets on the left wing, and when he is going, as seems as the last quarter of the Battalion, with, he shall file them to the left in Demi-ranks, to the left of the Muskets, and then the right the Pikes, and by a word of command (March) the Pikes and the Muskets shall possess the same ground, after which he shall give command (As you will) making save this in all these movinges, a Sergeant shall be at the wing of each division to prevent their falsifying.

the terc, and take up that Intervall, and cause the said Demi-ranks of Muskets face as it was, and that is the reason why the said Battalion is formed without more words.

An introduction.

NOr is this Paragraph rendered so smooth, as it should be, or, as I thinke, as it might be, for assuredlie the Adjutant must not face the Pikes by Demirankes, but by whole rankes, and the Muskets by the left hand Demiranke, the whole Pikes to the right hand, and the Demiranke of the Muskets to the left hand, that, so by the word of command, March, they may interchangeably take vp one anothers place, for so I vnderstand the Author, when he says, *Il fera faire (à l'ordonnée) à gauche au Demirang de la gauche des Mousquetaires, & à droite, aux Piques.* The Adjutant (says he) shall make the left Demiranke of the Muskets face to the left, and the whole Pikes to the right, and then by a command, march, &c.

But, let the translation be as it will, To the thing it selfe, I say, that in forming a Battaillon consisting of two wings of Musketeers, and one Bodie of Pikes, any of the ordinarie ways vied formerlie seemes to me as formal, & more easie, as the way prescribed by this French Author. And when the Major hath drawne the Musketeers in one Bodie, And the Adjutant the Pikemen in another twentie paces behind the muskets, according to the Authors direction, I shall, by his permission, say, the Pikes may joyne the Battaillon of muskets, with fewer words of command, in a shorter time, and with lesse trouble and embarras, then by the way mentioned by the Author.

I say, with fewer words of command, thus. The Author will have the Pikes to march in foure severall Divisions (for so I vnderstand his quarter rankes) and this requires foure severall words of command, for to everie quarter ranke he must say, march. When the Pikes have marchd to the left hand of the muskets (for there the Author will needs have them to be) They must face to the right hand, and that requires the fifth word of command. Immediate after the halfe of the muskets must be orderd to face to the left hand, and that is the sixth word of command. Then the halfe Bodie of muskets, and the whole Bodie of pikes must march, or rather countermarch to take vp interchangeably one anothers ground, that is the seventh word, And lastlie when muskets and pikes have changed their grounds, they must be orderd to face as they were, and that will be the eighth word of command. But I say foure words only for the turne first, let the halfe rankes of muskets face to the left hand, that is one, *aux*, let that halfe ranke of muskets march, and there be a competent Intervall made betwixt them, and the other Demiranke of muskets, to receive the pikes, that is the second word, *Marche*, order the pikes to march all in one yonge Bodie from the reare, and take vp that Intervall, that will be the third word of command; lastlie cause the forsaide Demiranke of muskets face as it was, and that is the fourth word of command; and then your Battaillon is formd without more words.

Secondlie,

Secondlie, I say, in a shorter time, as thus: To march in a whole bodie is a worke of quicker dispatch by three parts of foure, then to march in foure severall Bodies or quarter ranks, as the Author orders the pikes to doe, before they joine the musketeers. Secondlie, a bodie greater or smaller, will twice as soon march twenty paces in a straight and parallel line, then fortie perhaps fiftie in an oblique or crooked line, as these pikes must doe, which stand twentie paces behind the Battaillon of muskets, and must march to the left hand of them. Now, the Author in this section says, without loosing time, therfor it is, that I propose a way that looseth lesse time, then this way of his.

Thirdlie, I say, The Battaillon of muskets standing in one Bodie, and the pikes in another twentie paces behind the other, (as the Author appointeth them to be.) The pikes may be receayd in the middle of the Battaillon of muskets with much lesse trouble and embarras, then by the way prescribd by the Author, thus: Let the Demirank of the Battaillon of muskets face and march to the left hand, (leaving the right Demirank standing firme) and so make an Intervall, this is done without any embarras at all, next let the whole Bodie of the Pikes advance at one time, and take up that intervall, and this is likewise done without any embarras. Thirdlie, the Demirank of muskets, which did face and march to the left hand, being commanded to face as they were, doe it also without any embarras at all. But when the Pikes that stand on the left hand of the whole Battaillon of muskets, and the left Demirank of the muskets are orderd to face one to another, and then by a Counter march to take up one anothers ground, there will be some shouldering, some jussling, and some clashing of armes, even among the best trained Soldiers, and that I call, Embarras.

The French Kings Officers are obliged by this Section to marshall their Regiments according to its prescriptions, and no other way, But these Officers & Drill-masters who receive no French pay, may try either this way of the Author, or the good old way, or a third, if they please, and then retaine any of them; they find most convenient for themselves, and most easie for their Soldiers.

Lastlie, This Author requires a Sergeant to be at the wing of each Division, to prevent their falsifying. Observe here, that a Regiment standing in Battel, there are two divisions of muskets, and one of pikes; Two Sergeants being required to attend each division, will be fixe that are appointed for that dutie. In my observation upon the next section, we shall see how the rest of the Sergeants are disposed of.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

When a Battaillon is formed, the first Lieutenant shall stand in the rear of the first division

division of muskets, and the last in the reare of the last division, an Ensigney in the reare of the Pikes, with one halfe of the Sergeants, to hinder the Souldiers from dispersing, or breaking their ranks.

Animadversion.

I Never had so strong a conceit of the usefulness of a Lieutenant in a Compagnie, or a Lieutenant Colonel in a Regiment; that I need care, where this French Gentleman place the Lieutenants, whether with the Pikes or the Muskets, In the front or the reare, nor should I be much troubled; if in imitation of a wise and a warlike Nation, he should banish them for ever out of all his Battaillons; Bot indeed, I am astonished to see him make Lieutenants Ubiquitaries, for in the sixth section of the way to forme a Battaillon, (as I have observed) he appoints the Lieutenants to be in the reare of the pikes, if there be Ensigneys, and in the front of the pikes, if there be no Ensigneys, and consequentially still with the pikes, either in front or reare whether there be Ensigneys or not, Now in this section which I last cited, he orders one of the Lieutenants to be in the reare of the first division of muskets, and another Lieutenant to be in the reare of the second division of muskets. Can two Lieutenants be with the muskets, if all the Lieutenants be with the pikes, unless a Lieutenant can be in two places at one time? If it be said, the Lieutenants are to be with the pikes, when the Battaillon is forming, bot when it is formed, they may be otherwise disposed of, to shun contest, I am content to be so charitable (though I see no reason for it) to believe the Author meant so, bot then I say, why takes he so much notice of the first and last Lieutenants, and tells us nothing where the rest of them shall have their stations, whether still with the pikes (which most probable he means) or some more of them then two with the muskets, (which most rationally he should have meant) or that he leaves the rest, except these two, to be *individua vaga*, to wander where they please. And indeed, though he doe so with all of them, I am sure I shall not fall out with him for the matter.

In the next place, I desire it may be rememberd, that in the eighth section of the way to forme Battaillons, the Author requires a Sergeant to be at the wing of each division, which, in my animadversion on that section, I reckond to be fixe, in this section he requires the halfe of the Sergeants to be with an Ensigney in the reare of the Pikes, Now let us suppose there be in one Regiment ten Companies, these have twentie Sergeants allowd them, of these the Author takes the halfe, to wit ten, and placeth them in the reare of the Pikes, and fixe on the wings of three Divisions, this is in all fixe teene, there remains then bot foure of the twentie to attend the reare of the Musketeers, which being twice as numerous as the Pikes, makes this Division of the stations of Sergeants very disproportionable Sergeants formerlie were obliged onlie to attend the wings, Bot

if the Author doth allow as he doth, Sergeants to be in the reare as well as on the wings, I shall agree with him, for I have oft wonderd, why so necessarie an Officer as a Sergeant, should be pind to the flanks, as I have seene too oft practis'd, Bot I will still dissent from him in allowing so many Sergeants for the reare of the Pikes, and so few for the reare of the Muskets, till he make it appeare, that Pikemen may break their ranks, bot Musketeers cannot,

FRENCH AUTHOR.

The Drums shall be placed on the right hand and the left.

Animadversion.

IF he meane on the right and left hands of the whole Battaillon or Regiment, I would gladlie know, what they should doe there? I should thinke it most consonant to reason (not to speake of practise) that when a Battaillon, Brigad, or Regiment is formd, everie Officer (among whom Drummers ordinarlie are reckond) should have his station assignd him in that place, where he can doe best service, whether they be to fight, or to march, Bot to what use Drums shall serve either on the right or left hands of the whole Battaillon; and in no other place, when they are either to fight or to march, is a thing not so easilie understood. Bot if the Author meane, that Drums shall be placed on the right hand and the left, onlie so long as the Battaillon is Exercising; I say, he was obliged to tell us, at what distance on the right and left hand the Drums should have their stations, for I am sure, The French Drill-masters will confesse, that there be some motions of Exercise, which will not suffer either Drummers or other people to be within a great distance of either right or left hand of the whole Battaillon. As when halfe files are commanded either by halfe File-leaders, or Bringers up of whole files to double the front of the Battaillon Entire, or to the right and left hand by Division, when this word of command is obeyd, the Battaillon possesseth in front twice as much ground as it did before, bot these halfe files can not performe this, till they chase the Drums a great way from both the right and left wings of the Battaillon.

Bot, before I part with this head of forming a Battaillon, I shall take leave, to say, that I conceive, The Author hath not said so much on it, as he might, at least, not so much as he should, and consequentlie that his rules concerning it are Defective, and because I am obliged to give reasons for my opinion, I offer these first, he hath not told us, what Companie should have the precedencie of another, that is, where the Lieutenant Collonels Musketeers and Pikes should stand, (for I suppose he allows the Collonels the right hand) where the Majors, where

the oldest Captaines, where the youngest, and where the rest, that everie one of them may have their due according to their prioritie. This is a point, wherein there is neither custome nor law of warre universallie observed, it being variable according to the pleasure of the Prince or State, who wargeth the warre, or of their Generalls who manageth it. Secondlie, he has not assignd to everie Officer belonging to the Battaillon their proper stations, for though it may be soone knowne, where the Officers of a private Companie shoud stand, so long as it is a Companie apart, yet when the severall Companies are incorporated in one Bodie, the stations of the Officers are sensible changed, as any who never saw a Battaillon bot in paper, may easilie understand. All he hath done in this so necessarie a point, is to tell us, where the Ensigneys, Sergants and Drums, and the Lieutenants shoud be, and that in so confusd and unintelligible a way (as I have demonstrated) that he might better have said no more of them, then he hath done of the Captaines, and the three Field Officers. Nor doe I imagine, any man will be so litle the Authors friend, as to say, he needed not speake of these two points, because they are knowne in the French Armies, for by that reason he might have held his peace of very many things mentioend by him in his Booke, which were not onlie knowne in France, bot in most places of Christendome, long before his Grand-father was borne.

To support these reasons given for my opinion, I shall say further, that a Battaillon, Regiment or Brigad (or give it what name else you please) is formed for one of foure reasons. These are, either to be lookd upon and viewd by a Prince, a General, or some great Personage, or to fight, or to march, or to Exercise. In the first case it is very proper and convenient, that everie Companie be placed according to its prioritie, and everie Officer have his station assignd him according to his Dignitie. In the three last cases, those two points are not onlie convenient, bot purlie necessarie. And therfor I conclude, a Battaillon is not formed, or not formed as it shoud be, where any of these two things are either omitted or forgot. The Author having with many niceties formed his Battaillon, as you have seene, proceeds thus.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

The Generall Exercise for the Infanterie. After having drawne the Regiment into Battaille, they draw out the files of Halberdeers, which are placed on the wings of the Battaillon by the following commands. Take care, Halberdeers to forme your files on the wings of your Battaillon. To the right and left by halfe ranks draw your files on the wings of your Battaillon, March.

Animadversion.

After so much pains in this general Exercise, in giving us so many motions many old, and many new, to repeate most of them (except doubling by quarter

quarter ranks & quarter files) in the particular exercise of the foot, can be done, as I conjecture, for no other reason, but that in the first he gives us these he thinks most convenient; and in the second these he conceives most necessary; but why either the one or other, let us a little examine.

To place some files of Halberdeers or Pertisaners on the flanks of the Musketeers, is no doubt of excellent use, for in our ordinarie Battaillons the firemen ly open on their wings to the Impression of any Cavallerie, especiallie Curaseers, Bot our Author sould have appointed them to be stronglie armed for the Defensive, otherwise Pistolls will reach them, before the Horse come within reach of their Halberds. Bot, I thinke, he is more to blame, for not telling us, how many files of these Halberdeers are needfull: Nor can he be excused for giving command to draw out the files of Halberdeers to be placed on the wings of the Battaillon, without telling us from whence, or from what place they sould be drawn. We know not, for any thing he says, where these Halberdeers are, Bot since he permits us to guesse, I conjecture that at first they must be with the Bodie of the Pikes, if so, may it not be asked, whether Pikemen will not serve the turne as well, and if that be granted; and the number of the files condiscended on, they may be sent from the Bodie to the wings by two commands; first, so many files of Pikes face to the right, and so many to the left. The second; march to the right and left wings of the Musketeers.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Then they open the files of the Battaillon. Take heed to your selves in opening your files, that the right hand file stir not. To the left open your files to three foot distance March, Halt, To the right.

Animadversion.

WHen the Halberdeers have taken their ground on the wings, must the files of the Battaillon open? for what reason? To what purpose? I wold haue thought that the files of Halberdeers being drawn from the Bodie to the wings had left a voyd place, which was necessary to fill up by closeing the files, but the opening them is a misterie, and a greater misterie to me it is, that they are commanded to open to three foot of distance. At what distance were they before? perhaps at close order, which ordinarilie is reckond to be one foot and a halfe, Bot this will not satisfy those who stand stronglie for all the Author says, in regard neither he nor they will be governd according to antient custome, & therfor I must come closer up to both him and them, & say, The files could not be at one foot & a half distance, because the Author orders them to be at 3. foot distance in the fourth section of forming his Battaillon, where he hath these expresse words. The Major or Adjutant must observe that the distance of

files (when they are not exercising) is onlie halfe a pace distance, but when they come to handle their armes or doublings, they must open to a whole pace; This shall not be contradicted by me. But in this section, which I now examine, the Author contradicts himselfe, in bidding the files open to three foot distance, which presupposeth them to have beene at a closer order, and this in the section cited by me, he doth not at all admit, That by a pace is meant sixe foot is cleare by the Translator, who in this section interprets that which the Author in French calls halfe a pate, to be three foot. Now, how files who were at no closer order then three foot, shall open to three foot distance passeth my natural understanding. And though it should be granted to the Author, that he is not obliged to any old forme of exercising, yet I think he is bound not to disagree from his owne forme.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

The Exercise of the Musket. Take heed to your selves there in the exercising your Musket. Lay your right hand on your Musket. Poysse your Musket. Joyn your left hand to your Musket. Handle your Match, Blow your Match, Cock your Match, Try your Match, Lay your two fingers on the Pan, Blow your Match, open your Pan, present. At this command the Pikes charge. Give fire, withdraw your Armes. At this command the Pikes advance. Take out your Match, returne it to its place, Blow your Pan, Take your Primer, prime your Pan, shot your Pan, pas your Musket to the sword side. Take your charger, open your Charger with your teeth, put the powder into the barrel. Draw your rammer, Advance your rammer, Shorten your rammer against your Brest, put in your rammer into your Gun, Ram hard, withdraw your rammer, advance your rammer, shorten your rammer against your brest, returne your rammer. Joyn your right hand to your Musket, poysse your Musket, shoulder your Musket.

Animadversion.

WHat all these commands serve for, I doe not know, since the most necessarie one is omitted, both here and in the particular Exercise for the foot. And truly if the French Musketeers forget to charge with ball, as well as this great Drill-master hath forgot to give a word of command for it, The most Christian Kings Enemies may have a cheape market of most of his Infanterie,

In the next place, I can observe no new precepts for the Exercise of either Musket, or Pike, perhaps the former way of using or handling of both hath beene altered by the Author, and if so, he was obliged to set down his directions, and rules how to obey his new way, for without them, his owne Disciples may differ

differ among themselves in the explanation of his new fangle way, as much, as *Mahomet's* followers, *Haly*, *Ebrahequer*, *Homer*, and *Osman* disagreed in the interpretation of their false Prophets new Doctrine.

His words for exercising the Musket were used by the French long agoe, and yet are by all, who have layd aside the Muskets rest, (for that requires an alteration) which, for any thing I know, is now universallie out of fashion, both because Muskets are made lighter, then at first they were, as likewise, because use (which *Cesar* calls *verum Magister*) hath made them more mannagable. Bot before I goe further, let me speak a few words of Hand-guns.

Though the Musket and Pistoll have now got the prebeminence over all other Weapons both for Horse and Foot service, yet none of them are of an old invention. It is about 370. years or therby, since *Swart* the German Monke found out Gun-powder, the mother of all fire engines; after which in a little Intervall of time followd the invention of the severall kinds of Ordinance, nixt them Harquebuses of *Crac*, with longer and shorter Harquebuses for horsemen, and foot Soldiers. Muskets were not heard of (as many thinke) till the siege of *Regium* in *Italie* 250. years after the birth of powder. Bot for my part, I beleeve they be not so old, because I find no mention of them in all these great Armies of the Emperor *Charles* the fifth, *Francis* the first of *France*, and *Henry* the eighth of *England*, in the years 1530, 1536, and 1542; nay, nor in that brave Armie of *Henry* the second of *France*, wherwith he marched in Person into *Germanie* to assist the Dutch Princes against their master the Emperour, and that was in the year 1550. or therby. And which is more, *Montuc* the famous Marshall of *France* in his Commentaries speaks bot of a very few Harquebuses for every French Companie of foot, and not one word of a Musket in the years 1330, and 1536, the Crossebow being then much used by the French, and the Longbow by the English. The Pistoll began to come in fashion in the raigns of *James* the fourth of *Scotland*, and *Henry* the eight of *England*. Bot to our purpose.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Exercise of the Pike. Take heed to your selves there, Pikemen, &c.

Animadversion.

IN his commands for exercising the Pike, I find litle or no alteration in most of his words from these used before his time. In the way how to obey these words, it may be he differ from others; bot he has not told it to us. I shall advert to some things he hath omitted to tell us, bot before I doe it, it will not be impertinent to speake something of that ancient Weapon, the Pike.

The

The Pike is so old a Weapon, that the severall posturs of it have beene taught many ages agoe, we have most of our words of command for it from the Greekes. The Romanes made little or no use of it. The Gracians in the days of old, did admirable feates with it, the Macedonians farre greater, and in later times, the Switzers have made themselvs formidable by it. The Gracian Pike for most part was eighteen foot long. The Macedonian one, was one and twentie foot in length. Our European Pikes are ordinarlie reckond to be eightene foot long, bot in many places they exceed not fixteene.

One hundreth and fiftie years agoe the Infanterie of our moderne Armies consisted mostlie of these who were armd with long Weapons, which the French calld *Long-bois*, in which were comprehended, Partisanes, Hallberds, Two-handed Swords, Axes with long handles, and especiallie Pikes, they who carryed them were stronglie armd for the Defensive, and were called the heavie armed. The Bowmen, Slingers, and Darters were called the light armed, in Latine, *Velites*. Bot Bows, Darts, and Slings, were chac'd away by Harquebuses, and when these began to be nnumerous, they who carryed them, were reckond to make the fourth part of the Infanterie, as at *Vienna*, when *Charles* the fifth expected *Soliman*, his foot consisted of eightie thousand men, wherof twentie thousand were Harquebusiers, the other sixtie thousand were all armd with long Weapons of severall kinds. Bot after Muskets made a noise in the World, they chac'd away Harquebuses, and they who carryed them challengd the third part of the foot to belong to them, and not contented with that, In a short time, they would be halfe playmakers, nor did they stop there, for now Universallie, Musketeers make two parts of three of the Infanterie, and in some places I have scene the Musket usurpe the sole soveraigntie of all Weapons in foot Battailions, banishing the Pike absolutlie, not one wherof I could see in many Regiments.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Order your Pike. Charge to Horse. Draw your Sword. Returne your Sword.
Order your Pike, &c.

Animadversion.

THat which the Author calls present your Pike, The Translator all along renders it, Charge your Pike, how properlie, I can not tell. That which he says here, Charge to Horse, the originall hath it present the Pike to the Cavallic, and it is like the Author intended not then to charge the Horse with Pikes, because he immediatlie subjoyns, draw your Sword, which could not be done when the Pikemen chargd. Bot my worke is with the Author, not with the

the Translator. Therfor I say, This French Gentleman doth not tell us in what posture the Pike should be presented to the Cavallerie, or how the Pikemen should draw their Swords, both which he was obliged to doe. If Pikes be presented with both hands, how can these who present them draw their Swords? Perhaps with their teeth. The antient custome was, to foot their Pikes, and draw their Swords over their left arms, But whether this Author, means this or another way, who can Divine, since in it, as in many things else, he is so superciliouslie reserved? Practise indeed, hath taught that posture of putting the butt of the Pike to the right foot, holding the shaft of it with the left hand, and drawing the Sword with the right, to be too weak to endure the Schock of Horse, especiallie *Seus d'armes*, and therfor many have thought, that a Bodie of Pikes having its ranks and files at close order, presenting their armes at a steadie posture, without drawing Swords is fittest to resist a Cavallerie. But, whether, This Gentleman hath brought backe the old custome, or invented a new one, we know not, if he had pleased to speake out his mind, any way to present Pikes and draw Swords at one time, wold have got followers, as well as other French fashions doe.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Take heed there, the whole Battaillon to present your armes. Musketeers make ready. The Pikes charge at the same time. To the right, to the right, to the right, to the right, Halfe turne to the right, As you were, &c.

Animadversion.

THE Author having taught us the exercise of Musket and Pike, doth at full length teach us Faceings, Doublings, Counter-marches, and conversions, he wold have taught us better, if he had instructed us how, and in what manner we should obey some of his new commands. I shall say here in the generall, that 64. or 65. years agoe another French Gentleman *Louis de Montgomerie*, Lord of *Carbonfin*, wrote of all necessarie motions of exercise for Bodies of either Pikes or Muskets, or both, which was done, no doubt, by many, before he could draw a Sword, and by many, since he went to another World.

But I shall not offer to wrong this Author, with whom I have to doe, to think, he imagined all the motions and evolutions he speaks of, to be necessarie, it seems to me, he thinks not so, because, when he hath done with his general Exercise, he gives us a particular Exercise for the foot, which he calls necessarie and ordinarie in encounters, Then what are all those mentioend in the general exercise and not in the particular one, if they be not necessarie? Certainlie he asserts them to be at least fitting, and convenient. Whether all of them be so or not, requires some consideration.

The various and diversifying alterations of the Authors, doublings by Leaders of files, Leaders of halfe files, and Bringers up of whole files, by whole rankes, halfe rankes, and quarter rankes, to the front and the reare, of these of the middle to the wings, and of the wings to the middle (which middle, The Translator renders constantlie, The Center, I hope not a Geometricall one) and both of them Inwards, are, it may be, all of them prettie for show, but not the halfe of them for use. As to the conveniencie of them, let it be considerd, that those of them that are most for use, are most easie for the Drill-master to teach, and the Souldiers to learne, whereas those that are meerlie for show, are more difficult both to teach and to learn.

As to the Exercise by quarter files, I suppose, these Officers who understand it, or thinke they doe so, will find worke enough to instruct their Souldiers in it, and certainlie much time will be spent, before they make them capable to obey readilie and perfectlie the severall commands, that belong to it. How little it serves for use, may be known by this, that you must alter the deeptth of your battell, before you can practise it, and the Author himselfe tells you, the Battaillon must be eight deepe, the reason is cleare, because the quarter of that file, which is compold of sixe men, is one and a halfe, and Drill-masters must not be permitted to devide a man in two halves. To prove, that this Exercise by quarter files can not be made use of before an Enemie, thogh he be at a great distance, will be needles labour, for I suppose it will not be denyed by the Author himselfe or any of his Abettors, yea, I thinke, he tacitlie grants it, when he says nothing of it in his particular Exercise for the foot, where he speaks of things necessary and ordinarie in encounters. And yet in former times it hath beene layd downe for a ground, that practise before an Enemie is the ultimate end of all militarie Exercises. The ancient Romans (a people that deserved imitation) exercised their soldiery everie day summer and winter, yet everie point of their exercise was not onlie frequentlie but punctuallie practis'd before an enemie, which made the Jewish Historian *Josephus* say, that the militarie Exercises of the Romans were bloodles Battels, and their Battels were bloodie Exercises.

This exercise by quarter files cannot be made use of, but in these Bodies, the quarters of whose files terminats in an equall number of men, therfor you can not exercise by quarter files, when your file is ten deepe, as all the Infanterie of *Europe* was fiftie years agoe, because the fourth part of ten is two and a halfe, nor can you doe it, when your file is sixe deepe, as most, if not all *European* foot now are, because the fourth part of sixe is one and a halfe, and yet both ten and sixe are equall numbers. Let it be a rule to those who exercise by quarter files, that, That equall number whose quarter terminats in an equall number, is a number proper for them, and onlie proper for them, such are, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32,

36, 40. But the next equall number to any of these will not serve their turne, a 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34, and 38, because the quarters of all these terminates in an unequal and odd number, or rather in a number and the halfe of an unite, as the quarter of 14, is $3\frac{1}{2}$, the quarter of 22, is $5\frac{1}{2}$, the quarter of 26, is $6\frac{1}{2}$, and so of all the rest.

These who intend to make use of this exercise for show (for I hope, it pretends to nothing of necessitie) had need to keepe constantlie the same men in these same ranks and files, wherein they were, when they were first exercised that way, for if any of them be changed from their former stations, The Drill-master shall have a new worke to beginne againe with them. As by example, The first and second men in the file make out quarter of it, The third and fourth make the second quarter, The fifth and sixth make the third, and the seventh & eight make the fourth quarter of the file. Now, if the men who have stood (it may be) sixe or seven dayes in one and the same place of the file have cund something of this absolute Discipline, that is lectured to them, doe not change them or their stations, If you doe, your former labour is lost, you must beginne againe, because you have neither the Leaders nor followers of quarter files, that you had before. It is not so in the old and ordinarie commands of exercise, the performance whereof is with much lesse difficultie. And trulie in this quarter-file exercise, as the Author describes it, Officers wold not onlie be of a quick apprehension to understand all the hard words of command used in it, but they wold likewise have very tenacious memories to retaine them, and these who have not, I sould advise to exercise by booke, but then what shall become of the Souldiers that cannot read? And though they could, yet have no lessons writ for them how to obey these difficill commands. Indeed, I wold have lookd upon it, as a charitable act of the Author, and yet no more as what he was bound to doe, both to have set down rules, how all his new orders sould be obeyed, and figures representing them all to the eye. This, all Tacticks and Masters of exercise before him thought themselves obligd to doe, In this he had done himselfe much right, for then he had not left the rarities of his Invention to be misunderstood by the weake apprehensions of vulgar capacities, who cannot reach his meaning. I professe ingenuously, that after some studie, I fancy I have the Ideas of these motions or notions (call them which you will) in my head, but next morning I am to seek them, nor can I find them, till I find my Booke, and then I must studie them *de novo*. Let other Officers, Drill-masters, and Souldiers have as much braine as they will, sure I am, they have got worke enough cut out for them. And that Reader of a Countrey Church who durst not hazard to read the names of *Shadrach*, *Meschaiah*, and *Abednego*, for feare he sould not pronounce them distinctlie, but gravelie calld them the three Gentlemen with the difficill names, wold

rather have quitted his office, then adventured either to give or receive these hard words of command, of this exercise. Take two of them for example. Quarter files in front and reare take care, To the right and left, Quarter files of the front and reare, double your ranks in front and reare upon the quarter files of the Center on the wings, March, march. And within a litle. Quarter files in the Center take heed to your selvs. To the right and left, Quarter files in the Center double your ranks in front and reare, on the quarter files of the front and reare, inwards. March; march. Certainlie, these words are so long & so harsh, that they require not onlie a nimble apprehension and a ready tongue, but also good lungs, that they may be pronounced with one breath, and with a loud voice. And whether a readie obedience to them be very easie, if we can not judge, we may at least guesse, and hit right enough.

As to the conveniencie of much of this generall exercise, I desire to know, what conveniencie, what delight, what pleasure in a thing, that is very trouble some to a Master to teach, more troublesome to a Scholler to learne, and of no use at all, when it is both taught and learnd? Exercising of Souldiers should render to the lookers on an inward content of mind, to see their compatriots expert and readie in feats of armes to withstand and repell the violence of malignant Neighbours, that wold disturbe their peace at home, not litle content they can have, to heare an Officer command that which puzzles his Soldiers so in the obedience, that he must be glad to bring them to the posture, As they were. Indeed, I confesse, it will be no small matter of ridiculous sport, to beholders, who love to be mettrie with a mischief, to see a desperate Drill-master, stampe, stare, sweare, looke like one frighted out of his wits, and behave himselfe like a man something more then halfe mad, when, neither by words of his mouth, nods of his head, gesticulations of his bodie, nor grimaces of his face, he can get his Soldiers either one way or other to obey these commands, which most mercieleslie are imposed on the poor Drill-master himself to pronounce, without any methood or rules how to teach performance to his Soldiers; Just as, that inward sweet delight, which Spectators expect to enjoy by seeing Tragicall and Comicall events of by-gone times represented to the life before their eyes, is turnd to a loud and confused laughter, when these on the stage act their parts foolishlie, and impertinentlie, notwithstanding all the endeavors of the Master of the play, and the prompter to the contrarie. But it will not be amisse to examine one or two particulars of this generall exercise.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Half ranks take care to close with your files. To the right and left Demiranks close to your files, *March*. Halfe file-leaders take care to double the ranks on the wings in front. To the right and left half file-leaders double your ranks in the wings in front *March, march*. Bringers up make good your files as you were, *march, march*. Half Bringers up take heed there. To the right and left, half file Bringers up double your ranks on the wings in the reare, *march, march*. File-leaders make good your ranks as you were, *march, march*. Halfe file-leaders take heed there. To the right and left half file-leaders double your ranks in front inward. *March, march*. Bringers up make good your ranks as you were. Halfe file-bringers up take heed there. To the right and left halfe file-bringers up, double your ranks in the reare inwards, *March, march*. File-leaders make good your ranks as you were. *March, march*. Demiranks take heed there. To the right and left by Demiranks regain your distances, *march, halt, to the right and left*.

Ammadiversion.

IF any old Drill-master had been standing by the Author, when he commanded Demiranks to close to their files, he wold have concluded, that the next command wold have been one of two, either to make a conversion, whole, halfe, or quarter, or for Demiranks to open to their former order. Bot this old Drill-master wold have been much deceived, for he sould have heard nothing of a conversion, nor sould he have heard Demiranks orderd to regain their distances, till twelve commands were given and obeyd, Besides the word, *March*, fiftene times repeated. In his exercise by quarter files, he does worse, for there, after he hath orderd the files to close by Demiranks. He gives 33. words of command before he orders the Files to take up their former distances, beside the word, *March*, 47. times repeated. For my part, I am so shallow, that I cannot so much as conceive how a bodie of men can feasiblie, handsomlie, I had almost said possiblie obey any one of these twelve commands when either Files or ranks are at close order. The old rules of exercise required open order, or open open order, bot antient and approved customes are too weake barrs to confine this Authors unbounded conceptions, yet I thinke they sould be limited by his owne rule, which is, that when the Battaillon is exercised, The Files shall be at sixe foot distance

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Exercise by quarter files. To the right by quarter files double your ranks in front, march. To the left by quarter files double your ranks in the front. To the right by quarter files double your ranks in the reare. To the left by quarter files double your ranks in the rear.

To each of these commands he subjoyns, as you were. Then follows, halfe file-leader take heed there, To the right halfe file-leaders double your ranks in front, &c.

Animadversion.

WHat a strange sally is this? First with some trouble and some losse of time to alter the deepth of the Battailla to no other purpose bot to exercise by quarter files, and before he had given five commands concerning it, to runne full speed backe to the exercise by halfe files, which was sufficientlie done by him before, for in this place you shall heare him give these same commands, and in these same very words for ranks to be doubled in front and reare by halfe file Leaders, and halfe file Bringers up, that he gave, when the Battaillon was sixe deepe. Why this repetition? Is it to let us see, he can exercise by halfe files when the Battaillon is eight deepe, as well as when it is sixe deepe? Who doubts, bot he can doe it thogh the Battaillon be two and thirty deep? Is not then this exercise by halfe files out of purpose, and a litle Impertinent, when he promisseth Exercise by quarter files? And is not an ayrie repetition of these some things and words he had given us before, a Battologie? Uless there be a misterie in it, which I cannot comprehend, And yet I sould thinke, militarie Exercises sould not be misterious. I wish once more, that the Author or some of his Proselytes wold write a Commentarie on this new Exercise of his.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Particular Exercise for the foot, for things most necessary, and ordinarie used in encounters. Take heed the whole Bodie to present your armes. Musketeers make readie. The Pikes charge at the same time.

Animadversion.

I Can hardlie be induced to believe that all that is containd in this particular Exercise be necessary, much lesse most necessary, or if some of them be used in encounters, I conceive, it must be done on extraordinarie occasions, and not ordinarlie. Nor doe I imagine the French Generalls will be perswaded in any encounter to double their files by either Demiranks of the wings, or yet Demiranks of the Bodie. If they doe, they have good lucke, if they put not their Battaillons in an inextricable confusion, then which an enemy can desire no fairer advantage.

As to that, that the Pikes sould charge at the same time, that the Musketeers make readie, the originall hath it, present their Pikes, which the Translator, (as I observd before) renders, charge, I know not, to what purpose, Pikes sould either present, or charge, when the Musketeers are either making readie, or giving fire, unless they be comd within the length of their Pikes of an enemy; nor doe I thinke it convenient they sould, for it is neither a necessary nor an easie posture

posture for Pikemen to keep their Pikes presented, the whole time they are advancing towards an enemy, which I suppose both they and the firemen are bound to doe, thogh all that while the Musketeers are either making readie, or giving fire.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

To the right, double your ranks in front, ranks as you were. To the left, double your ranks in front, ranks as you were. To the right, double your ranks in the reare, ranks as you were. To the left, double your ranks in the reare, ranks as you were.

Animadversion.

THIS way of doubling ranks mentiond here is done thus. The second ranke doubles the first, the fourth, the third, and the sixth doubles the fifth for what use this doubling serves, let these tell, who are more in love with it, then I am. Is it necessary and usefull in encounters? I trow not, nor am I bound to take this Gentlemans word for it. But waving that question, I affirme, The Author hath committed two grosse errors in this one Paragraph. First by mentioning onlie this way of doubling ranks (after he had promised to give us the Exercise of foot in things necessary and usefull) he prefers it to any other way of doubling ranks, whereas it may be done with more conveniencie and advantage by making either Leaders of halfe files, or Bringers up of files to double ranks. My reason is, because, thogh when by the last two ways ranks are doubled, the files of these ranks are at a closer distance, yet the ranks doubled keepe the same distance they had, but by this way of the Author, not onlie files are at a closer distance, but the ranks doubled are at twice as great distance, as they were before, and so the more unserviceable. The truth is, the most advantageous way to double ranks is to make the last three halfe files by right and left hand double the three ranks that stand before them. Entire, or, (as this Author calls it) on the wings, for thereby, you not onlie keepe both your ranks and files at the same distance they were at before their doubling, but also you possesse twice as much ground in front, as you did before your doubling. His second error is, that he orders ranks to double in the reare, which must be done thus. The first ranke doubles the second, the third doubles the fourth, and the fifth ranke doubles the sixth. Assuredlie then, the ranks doubled stand with their faces to the Drill-master, but the ranks doubling, turne their backs to him, and stand still with their backs to him, for against this ridiculous posture, the Author hath provided us with no word of command either before or after the doubling. But to strike home, the necessity of doubling ranks in the reare, must needs arise from the news you have of an enemies approach in your reare, In this case, you will resolve either to leave him,

or.

or stand and fight him. If the first, I pray you, trifle not away your time, in doubling ranks either in front, or reare. If the second, that you mind to fight, then, I suppose, you will face your Battailon to the reare, whether you doe this by a Demy tour, (which is the best way) or by a Countermarch (which is not so good) or by a halfe conversion, (which is the worst of the three) is not the question here. Bot the face of your Battel being changd, that which was your reare is your front, and what was your front is your reare, and consequentlie your Col- lours and Officers must change their places and stations. If then you thinke it fit, that ranks double, you may doe it, without bidding them double either to front, or reare, for by what I have said, you may see, that ranks must all wise double to the front, bot never to the reare. If you be please, to consider this rightlie, you will perhaps conclude with me, that all the Authors doublings of ranks in the reare, either by this way prescriv'd in this section, or by Leaders of halfe files, or Bringers up of files (wherof he speaks in his generall exercise) are not onlie needless, useless, and inconvenient, bot redundant, to call them no worse.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

The whole Bodie take care to Countermarch. To the right by ranks Countermarch, March, halt to the right. To the left by ranks Countermarch. March, Halt, to the left.

Animadversion.

WHy not a Countermarch by files as well, as by ranks? The one is as ne- cessaire everie bit, as the other. And if he had said, that neither the one nor the other was neccessaire, or yet ordinarlie used in encounters, I should not at all have contradicted him. Bot the Author in his generall Exercise speaks of Countermarches by files, as well as by ranks: So doe some others who write of exercising, bot I wish that seeming difference were expunged out of all their Books, for it does bot puzzle a young Soldier when he hears or reads of two se- veral Countermarches, one by files, and another by ranks, and if his judgement be not subtiler then mine, he will never distinguish them. And indeed they are bot one thing, files cannot countermarch bot ranks must doe it too, nor can ranks countermarch, bot files must doe it likewise. Imagine a regiment of a thousand men drawne in battell on a Field, wheron they may march a hundrerth in breast, That Bodie is drawne up ten deep in file, and so there are one hundrerth files, and ten ranks. It were superfluous, nay, ridiculous for the Colonell of that regiment, to bid the ten ranks march, or yet the hundrerth files march, because the one can- not move, but the other must move also. It is the very same thing in a counter- march. And therfor in exercising, Officers should say no more, bot, To the right, or,

or, To the left hand, Countermarch, without mentioning either file, or ranke.

Countermarches in the dayes of old, were on some occasions thought usefull, till the force of Gun-powder made the performance of them before an enemy dangerous, and consequentlie, the command for it, something Impertinent. The old *Gracians*, and other nations too, made much use of them, in their bodies of foot, which were sometimes eight, very oft sixteene deepe, as also in their bodies of Horse, which were foure, five, eight, and sometimes ten deepe. There were three kinds of those Countermarches, The *Macedonian*, The *Lacanian*, and the *Persian*, which was also calld the *Choraeon*. All these three are still used in our *European* Exercises, but seldome or never in encounters for any thing I ever saw or heard, till I read it in this Author. The different ways how all these three Countermarches are performed, are known well enough to ordinarie Drill-masters. But this Frenchman speaks but of one kind, nor doth he tell us, of which of these three sorts it is, or if it be of a fourth of his own finding out, and therfor we know not, whether by his Countermarch, He will have us to winne ground, to loose ground, or keep the ground we have.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Take heed to make a quarter Conversion, To the right a quarter conversion. March, Halt, To the left a quarter conversion. March, Halt.

Animadversion.

WE must suppose, when these commands were given the files and ranks were at sixe foot distance, for so the Author will have the Battailion to be when it is exercised. But why he doth not order both ranks and files to close to a nearer distance, before he command them to make their quarter conversion, I doe not apprehend. I know the practise of others in doing it, will be no rule for him, but I wish, he had given us a rule how to doe it convenientlie and handsomelie at so open a distance, which to me seems so unfeasible, that I conceive the bringing both ranks and files to some closer order then sixe foot wold be very needfull, before the conversion be commanded, What necessitie the Author hath found, to use either halfe, whole, or quarter conversions before an enemy, or in what place of the World they are ordinarlie used in encounters, I cannot devine, till he informe us, what ever use may be made of them in exercises, I think, they may be with no disadvantage forborne, when an enemy is nere. This is that Motion which our Scots Drill-masters used to call, The great turne, The English tearnd it properlie enough, To wheele your Battel, The Dutch, *Swenget each*. Whether it be more proper for the horse then for the foot, being it may be

performed in farre shorter time and with much lesse trouble with the first, then with the last, shall not be debated heere.

I shall in this place take occasion to tell you in few words the opinion of another French Author concerning Faceings, Doublings, Countermarches, and Wheelings. That is, *Louis de Montgomerie Sieur of Carbalusin*, (whom I once mentiond before) he was a Cousine of that famous *Count de Montgomerie*, (whose sad fate and not fault it was, to kill his Master *Henry* the second of *France* at justing) A great Captaine this *Louis* was, and had served long under a farre greater Captaine and a great King too, *Henry* the fourth of *France*, I shall speake first of Wheelings. Before you make your conversion, says *Montgomerie*, you must close your files and your rankes, beginning with the files, and when you have made your conversion, and wold open them to their former distances, you must begin with the rankes, whether they be to open to the front or the reare, and then with the files, whether they be to open to the right or the left. As to faceings, he says, it is enough to face to the right hand, or right about, to face to the left he conceaves may make some disorder, because of the Soldiers Swords. Concerning doublings, He thinks if rankes and files be taught to double to the right hand, it is sufficient, for he holds it not necessary for rankes or files to double to the left, or to double rankes by halfe File-leaders, or Bringers up, or yet to use countermarches and conversions. Yet concludes, it is in the discretion of the Commander to use them all, or none of them as he pleaseth. His words are *Cela, neantmoins, demeure a discretion*. It is to be observed, that this *Montgomerie* had seene the Warres of the Low-countries, when they were hotlie mannaged by the renowned Captains, *Maurice* Prince of *Orange*, for the Estates, and the Duke of *Parma*, and *Marques Spinola*, for the King of *Spain*. And in these times, martiall Exercises frequentlie reduced to practise were in Vogue. The *Netherlands* being indeed Schooles of warre.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Take notice all. Order your armes. The Pikemen rest their Pikes on the ground.
Animadversion.

THE French word is, *Reposes vous sur vos Armes*. Rest upon your Armes. The Translator renders it, Order your Armes. The properest English word he can give. But trulie I think the French word more proper then the English one, and the hie Dutch word as proper as any of them, which is *stellen eenigzins by den uechten sui*. Set your Armes by your right foot. But, order your Armes, (to speake strictlie) is too generall a word to denote that speciall posture which it should import, for there is no posture either of Musket or Pike, which should not be

be done orderly, & a Pike, either shouldered, ported, or comported, so it be hand-somlie done, is a Pike ordered, as well as when the butt of it is set on the ground. But as in this, so in severall other motions, I find a penurie and defect of words, which makes some of them signifie the thing intended very improperly. This may be observed in the French, in the hie and low Dutch, as well as in the English. In all your doubling of ranks by halfe File-leaders and Bringers up, and doubling of files by halfe rankes, the things intended are not fullie nor well enough exprest by these words which were invented and are still used for them. As by example, when you say, Bringers up of files double your ranks to the right hand, this word stricktly and properly imports, that you should make the rankes double the number, or twice as many as they were, and consequentlie, since they were sixe before, you should by that command, make them twelve. But when the word of command is obeyed according to the usuall way, the very contrarie appears, for whereas they were sixe rankes before, they are made to be but three, the number of men in each of the three foremost rankes is indeed doubled, but the rankes themselves are made fewer. It is the same thing in the other languages I spoke of. And suppose, you are exercising a Bodie of twentie files, you will say, halfe rankes to the right hand double your files. If a man, who never had seene any of these exercises before, were standing by you, he wold assuredlie think, you intended to make your twentie files, fortie, but he shall see just the contrarie, when he perceaves that by the performance of that command, your twentie files are made but ten. The number of men in everie one of the ten files on the right hand are indeed doubled, but the files themselves are made fewer by halfe. And as to this motion, I last spoke of, I believe, it wold be more proper to say, halfe rankes double the ranks on your right hand, for thereby, indeed, the ranks which stand on the right hand and were but sixe, are made really twelve, and that is the double number of sixe. If you please to consider it a litle, I believe, you will find it to be so.

Now, when we say, Order your armes, The Souldiers set the butts of them on the ground, the Pikemen hold their Pikes in their right hands just against their right ears, The Musketeers lay their right hands on the barrills of their Muskets, and so both of them leane on their armes, and all leaning is repose, therfor it is, that I thinke, Rest on your armes, is more proper then, Order your armes, and, set down your armes at your feet, more proper then any of them. But I doe not offer to introduce either new things or new words.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Lay down your armes. The Pikemen sticke their Pikes between their two legs.

Animadversion.

BOr, if the ground be so hard, that you cannot sticke your Pikes in it, as in a dry summer, and a frostie winter it will unquestionable be, I suppose you may lay your Pikes on the ground, bot if you can stick them, it will be more handsome, and have the braver show. Bot I mistake the French language, if in the originall which I read, it be not, lay down your Pikes on the ground between your feet. When Pikemen were formerlie orderd to lay down their Pikes, they were taught by a turne of the right hand to lay the buts of their Pikes leuell with the out-side of their right foot, bot now that *Monsieur* will have us to lay them between our feet, or stick them between our legs, let it be so, we need not fall out with him for the matter,

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Be readie to goe, a la paille. A la paille. Which they are to doe when the Drum beats a charge, and are to return, when the Drum beats againe, with their Swords in their hands, and holding them above their heads when everie one is returnd to his place, and when they are returned. Returne your Swords, handle your Armes.

Animadversion.

WHat a fanfare is all this? To what purpose all this glancing show? what can the busines be? Before this peece was Englished, I read in the French originall, *A la paille*, bot did not know what it meant in exercise, bot was hopefull, The Translator wold have helped me, Bot in him I meet againe with, *A la paille*, and with no English for it. So both the Author and the Translator leave us to our conjectures. For my part, I thinke it is probable, he intended no more bot what is usuall in exercises, to permit the Soldiers, after they had layd down their armes, to goe recreate and refresh themselves, under the name of, *a la paille*, and on the beating of the Drum, to returne with drawn Swords to their other armes. Secondlie, *A la paille*, in French, is as much, as, To the straw, is in English; therfor it may be, he intended, that, when the Battaillon is to encampe, and the watch is set, and the Regiment hath layd down their armes, The Soldiers are commanded to goe look for straw, and sticks, for butting and fuell, And while they are about that worke, if the Drum beate, they are to draw their Swords (in case of a sudden attack) and therwith defend themselvs, till they get back to their other armes. If neither of these two conjectures of mine please you, you may, (if you thinke it worthie your labour) guesse your self, the freedom to doe it, can be denyed to neither you nor me.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

All sorts of change of filings. Take care in all changeings of filings, that the files be of even number, and if there be found any supernumerarie files, let them be formed into ranks in the reare of the Division.

Animadversion.

IN the first place, what this Gentleman means by supernumerarie files in the plurall number, I do not understand, for I conceive, in the greatest Battaillon that ever was, or yet can be fancied to be, there will be bot one odd file, and why that one od file should be called supernumerarie (even in the singular number) I know not, od or uneven it may be, bot supernumerarie it can not be, for I doe not beleieve that any of the French Captains entertains more Soldiers then these the French Kings allows them wages for. And if they have no supernumerarie Soldiers, they will have no supernumerarie files; As litle doe I understand why od files (if there were any) should be made ranks in the reare, for by that mean you shall increase the number of your ranks (which should be constantlie and perpetuallie the same) and consequentlie adde to the deepth of your Battaillon, which must not be permitted you or any under the Prince, or his Generall. Suppose you have one od file (which may frequentlie fall out) if you make a ranke of it in the reare of a Division, then you make that Division seven deepe, whereas it should be bot sixe. Sure there is lesse hurt and lesse disorder in an od file, then in an od ranke. If the Author had said, If there be any od men in any of the Companies let them all be cast in the reare of the whole Battaillon, and make files of them, he had (to my sence) have spoke reason, yet no more then very ordinarie Officers have both spoke and practis'd before him.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

Manner of firing. The best way of firing, is by rank, when you wold fire in a Parallell line with the Enemy.

Animadversion.

YEs, To fire by rank is not alone the best, bot the onlie way of firing; if the Enemy be either in your front or your reare. Bot if he be on either of your flanks, you are to face him by these files that are nearest to him, and then you are to fire likewise in a parallell line with the Enemy, and yet in this case, the Author must permit us to fire by file, and not by ranke.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

For this purpose to doe it with lesse trouble, it is good to doe it standing firme your ground, without any motion, save that, of making the five first ranks kneele, and

let the sixth be the first that fires, then the fifth rising up, does the like, and so the rest in order.

Animadversion.

I Have seen three several ways how ranks fire successivelie, not to speak of firing by three ranks together, the first kneeling, the second stooping, the third standing, which is not used but at a dead lift. The first is, when the first ranke hath fired, The Musketeers divide themselves in two parts, the one half marcheth by the right, the other by the left hand to the reare, where they are againe by their Officers marshald in one rank. This way is troublesome, especiallie if the rank be numerous, as in all great Battailions ranks are, yet it hath been so antient a custome in the armies of the Estates of the United Provinces of the Low-countries, that I saw it practis'd in the year 1659. by the Estates Guards at the *Hague*. The second way is, when these who have fired, turne to the left hand, & marches down to the reare between that file wherof they were members, and the next file to it, This hath farre lesse trouble in it, and thogh it can convenientlie enough be done, when the Enemy is in front, yet it is most proper, when he is in your reare. The third way is, when the first rank having fired, stands still, the second advanceth sixe foot before the first, and fires, and so the rest successivelie. This according to my weak judgement, is the best, and hath least embarras in it, but onlie can be used, when your Enemy is in your front, observe, that by all these three ways, wherof I have spoke, you gaine ground.

This fourth way which our Author prescrivs seems to me to have two inconveniencies inseparablie joynd with it. The first is, you onlie keep the ground you have, but gaines none, and in the keeping it, five parts of sixe of your firemen look like supplicants, and not like Combattants. The second inconvenience is, that unless your Souldiers by long practise be habituated to this New Mode, these who kneel may readilie be more affrayd of the bullets of their fellows who stand behind them, then of these of the Enemy who are at a farre greater distance before them, for the nearer danger is, with the more ouglie and dreadfull aspect it looks. This fear (which is naturall to man) may make Musketeers slow to rise from their kneeling posture, and when they are up, too slow to give fire. Besides all this, the Author gives us no rule how ranks shall fire, if an enemy be behind them, it seems, he conceaves Victorie is so entaild to his Masters armies, that they need not provide for a retreat, for if an enemy chance to be in their reare, I suppose none of their ranks must kneele, unless it be to beg quarter.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

All the ranks, before the skirmish renues, must be closed up to sixe foot distance.

Animad-

Animadversion.

THe French Original hath it, *deux pas*, two paces. I doe not thinke the Author meant two paces, each of them of five foot, ten foot is too great a distance between ranks of Musketeers. I suppose he intended two ordinarie steps, and the Translator hath done well to make them sixe foot. Bot why, close up to sixe foot distance? were they ever at a greater distance? I believe, not. I will once more put the Author in mind of his own rule concerning distances given by him in the fourth section of the forming his Battaillon, in which he orders the Major or Adjutant to observe, that the due distance of files (when they are not exercising) is onlie half a pace distance, bot, says he, when they come to handle their armes or doublings, they must open to a whole pace. The like, certainlie, he meant of ranks. In marching, sixe foot of distance between ranks of Pikemen is necessarie, because the length of a Pike from a mans shoulder to the butt requires no lesse. Musketeers in marching requires not so much, bot to keep a Decorum, they must keep alike distante with the Pikes. Since then the Author hath not told us, when rankes either were or should be at a greater distance then sixe foot, and since other Tacticks have required no greater distance, why should rankes, before the skirmish beginne (says the Author) *renue* (says the Translator) close up to sixe foot distance? And till it be explained, it is unintelligible.

FRENCH AUTHOR.

When they file of on a Bridge before an Enemie after the loose men have passed, The Battaillon must be filed of by rank, by the Center.

They must make quarter Conversions, and half Conversions.

Animadversion.

WHY these two commands are joynd so close together, I suppose, be onlie known to the Author, and some few of his friends to whom he hath revealed the misterie. Whether must they make these conversions, before they passe the Bridge, or upon the Bridge, or after they have pass'd the Bridge? A very hard matter to doe it, I thinke, in any of the three places; thogh no enemie were near, and yet here it must be done before an enemie. If it be answerd, that this command for conversions is generall, & hath no relation to the passing a Bridge, then, I say, The Author plac'd it ill here, Its proper place had been where he spoke of conversions both in his generall and particular exercise. What hath conversions to doe with passing a Bridge?

I have now given the reasons of my dissent from some things of this French way

way of exercising the Infanterie. Notwithstanding whereof I think the Authors invention is to be commended, and I should have imagined, that most of his novelties had been practis'd onlie within the walls of *Paris*, or among the train'd Bands of *France*, if there be any there, if the title page of the Book had not told me, they are practis'd in the armies of his most Christian Majesty. Yet for all that, I am of the opinion that since the time the Author wrote this peece, to this very day, the French Kings armies have been so hotlie imployed, that they have had but litle leisure to make use of all his new motions. The Author might, if he had pleas'd have made his Battaillon sixteen deepe, as well as eight, and therby not onlie have drill'd it by quarter files as well, if not better, but also have imitated the Macedonian *Phalanx*, which was constantlie compos'd of sixteen ranks, and so have represented to his soldiers the forme, divisions, and subdivisions of that Battaillon.

And, because many of his motions are meerlie for show, and since for such a trifle, as is that exercise by quarter files, he thinks the depth of a battel may be changed he might have cast his Battaillon in a Wedge, in a Rhombe or Diamant, in a Globe or Ring, or in a Saw. And so have represented to his Spectators, the Figures of Battels used by the Antients, which to my apprehension, would have been more delightfull to behold then any of his new Evolutions.

And once more, if the depth of Battaillons may be alter'd, as the severall fancies of Drill-masters lead them, they may, if the Regiment consist of a thousand, or a thousand twentie four men (as many of our moderne Regiments doe) order their files to consist of two and thirtie men, and so their Battaillon shall be square of men, and with some other rules of the square root, they may make Battaillons square of ground, doubled Battaillons, and Battaillons large of front, the art wherof everie Drill-master knoweth not, and yet the sight and opening up the use of these (thogh now out of fashion) would be of more profit and advantage to an attentive Soldier who minds his business, and of more pleasure and delight to the curieous Beholder, then any new thing any of them can see in this exercise. But it will perhaps be answerd me, that all these things I have mention'd, are old, and this Exercise is new, and Novelries, without all peradventure, please best.

P. 17. l. 11. for *sens*, read, *Sens*. P. 17. l. 15. for *may*, read, *may*. P. 20. l. 29. for *neighbour*, read, *method*. P. 23. l. 18. for *files of these ranks*, read *no more, but files*. P. 24. l. 11. for *please*, read, *pleas'd*. P. 24. l. 13. for *leaders of half files*, read, *leaders of files*. P. 24. l. 14. for *bringers up of files*, read, *bringers up of half files*. P. 31. l. 17. for *close*, read, *close*.

F154551

A3917.5

